

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
7/13/08 – 7/26/08

DISTRICT 1

CO Doug Hermanson worked a marine patrol on Lake Superior and contacted two subjects in possession of four lake trout. The boat had none of the required safety equipment on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman contacted a group of anglers on Deer Lake where it is illegal to possess live bait. The boat they were using had an expired registration, none of the adults had fishing licenses and they were in possession of live bait. They agreed to purchase licenses, leave the live bait behind and assured CO Leadman that the boat was registered. CO Leadman contacted them a short time later and discovered that they had returned to the access site and retrieved the live bait. Further investigation revealed that the boat was unregistered. Several tickets were issued.

CO Mark Leadman observed a boat with three people fishing with live bait. He contacted them and discovered 20 walleye of different sizes stuffed in the live well. They were also fishing without licenses. The subjects explained that they were planning on returning the walleye to the lake and weren't going to keep them. Several tickets were issued.

CO Marv Gerlach contacted a subject who had purchased a bear hunting license while his hunting privileges were revoked. He was ticketed for the violation.

COs Ryan Aho and Brian Bacon observed a boat with a person fishing on a local lake. As the COs approached, the subject began to throw fish overboard. Contact with the subject revealed he had 20 bluegills over the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

COs Mike Hammill and Derek Miller contacted several individuals fishing at a state forest campground who were highly intoxicated. A license check revealed they were fishing without licenses and leaving lines unattended. Enforcement action was taken.

While on routine patrol, COs Mike Hammill and Reid Roeske came across an angler in possession of two undersized smallmouth bass. The fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Michael Feagan responded to a complaint in the Pigeon River Country state forest regarding a camp that appeared abandoned with extensive litter strewn all over. CO Feagan located the local subject responsible for the camp at his residence and advised the site needed to be cleaned up and moved out.

CO Eric Bottorff was waiting on shore at Cornwall Flooding when a boat pulled in with three undersized bass and no personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Stowe handled several state land complaints including camps staying beyond 15 days, an abandoned trailer which was seized, and a shoreline complaint regarding destruction of vegetation and leaving personal property on public land.

CO Andrea Albert testified at a felonious assault trial in Kalkaska County. The case stems from a fight on the Torch Lake sand bar where one subject broke a beer bottle and stabbed/slashed another. The subject was found guilty.

COs Carl Vanderwall and Duane Budreau received complaints about campers at Maple Bay campground not paying the fees for their sites. The COs patrolled the campground and ticketed subjects for not registering their camps.

CO Duane Budreau conducted a boat patrol on Walloon Lake. CO Budreau stated that he contacted 30 boats and ticketed one angler for fishing without a license.

CO Carl Vanderwall located a truckload of trash on state land, and identified and contacted subjects from names and addresses found at the site. The subjects denied leaving the trash and stated that someone must

have taken their trash and dumped it on state land. A ticket was issued for litter.

CO Carl Vanderwall and Sgt. Jim Gorno responded to a trespassing complaint in Oyster Bay on Lake Charlevoix. A young female swam to shore from her boat to use the complainant's trampoline. Heated words were exchanged between the complainants and the occupants of the offending vessel. The COs met with both parties and quelled the disturbance.

CO Andrea Erratt observed a personal watercraft (PWC) operating at a high rate of speed, too close to the docks, and without a PFD on Lake Charlevoix. The subject was ticketed for operating a PWC without a PFD and was given a warning for the 100 foot rule violation.

CO Andrea Erratt ticketed a subject for operating in a closed area after he drove his boat through a buoyed swim area on Lake Charlevoix.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a complaint of campers cutting down trees in the Graves Crossing State Forest Campground. While she did not find any cut trees, she did remove some late camp visitors who were being very loud after hours.

CO Andrea Albert testified in Charlevoix County District Court at a bench trial for a ticket issued in October for possession of a foul hooked salmon. The Judge found the defendant guilty of possessing a foul hooked fish, and of snagging and having an unbaited hook in addition to the original charge. The defendant was ordered to pay \$50 restitution for the salmon and \$750 in fines and court costs. He also had his fishing license revoked for the remainder of this year and for the next three years.

DISTRICT 4

CO Carolyn Dice was patrolling Big Star Lake when she observed a boat that appeared to be overloaded with passengers. A check of the vessel revealed that there were no PFDs for the eight adult passengers. The operator of the boat attempted to argue that the infant life jacket and two junior life jackets they had on board were adequate.

COs Brian Lebel and Mike Bomay were checking anglers at a Mecosta County park, when CO Lebel observed a subject making trips back and

forth to a dumpster from a spot where a second subject was working on something laying on the ground. When CO Lebel went to speak to the subjects, he observed the second person was stripping plastic from copper wire. Follow up investigation revealed that the subjects had broken into a building and stolen the wire, along with wheel rims and other metal. The two subjects were arrested for the stolen property and breaking and entering.

CO Brian Brosky and Sgt Kevin Hackworth were patrolling Hamlin Lake in Mason County when they encountered three subjects fishing from a small boat. Two of the persons stated they did not have fishing licenses, but thought it was all right to fish because they hadn't had time to buy licenses since arriving for their vacation.

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling Ludington Harbor in Mason County when he observed an unregistered 40 foot yacht. CO Brosky stopped the boat and spoke with the operator, who stated the boat belonged to a corporation that he was associated with and therefore was not owned by any person, and did not require registration. It was later determined that the boat was primarily used in Florida and had not been registered. A ticket was issued for operating an unregistered vessel.

Michigan Conservation Officers, the U.S. Coast Guard and Mason County Marine Deputies conducted joint patrols in Ludington on Lake Michigan during the annual Gander Mountain Classic Salmon Tournament. Several marine and fishing related checks were performed during the festivities with no major violations encountered.

CO Mike Wells was leaving a Newaygo County lake after a boat patrol when he smelled smoke. He crossed the road and found a large grass fire burning toward nearby homes. CO Wells contacted the fire department, and then located two subjects who admitted the flames escaped their control after starting brush piles on fire. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Rademacher was conducting a boat patrol on the Muskegon River when he came upon a tuber who was suffering severe abdominal pain. CO Rademacher took the woman to a nearby house on shore where an ambulance picked her up and took her to the hospital.

CO Sam Koscinski ran a marine safety patrol in Wexford County on the Big Manistee River. The CO contacted two individuals in rental canoes who did not have PFDs. The individuals tried to blame the canoe livery for not providing them with PFDs, but after further conversation CO Koscinski determined that the subjects had flipped their canoes and the PFDs floated downstream. The two individuals were ticketed for the PFD violation.

CO Sean Kehoe located lost hikers near the Vasa Trail in Grand Traverse County and gave them a ride back to their vehicle.

COs Sean Kehoe and Diane Drogowski conducted a night patrol on Long Lake in Grand Traverse County for fishing activity. While CO Drogowski was parking the patrol vehicle, CO Kehoe checked one of the boats waiting to load up at the launch. The subject had four walleye, three of which were undersized. The subject was ticketed for possession of the undersized walleye.

CO Mike Borkovich received a report of a 17 year old subject attempting to swim from shore in the Traverse City area out to Gull Island. CO Borkovich and a local boat owner located the 17 year old and pulled him to safety. When the subject was located he was in distress, and was no longer able to swim.

CO Diane Drogowski responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of anglers keeping undersized bass on a Grand Traverse County lake. CO Drogowski contacted the three subjects, who were in possession of two undersized bass.

CO Diane Drogowski responded to a complaint regarding several ORVs operating illegally. CO Drogowski contacted the operators of the ORVs and enforcement action was taken.

CO Diane Drogowski contacted a boater on a Grand Traverse County lake who hadn't registered his boat since 1998. The subject was ticketed for the unregistered watercraft.

COs Brian Brosky and Jim Espinoza were patrolling Bass Lake in Mason County when they observed an individual waving a greeting to them from a nearby dock. A short time later they checked the same person in a boat fishing without a license and smoking marijuana.

CO Jim Espinoza and CO Brian Brosky were patrolling Lake Michigan near Ludington when they encountered an unregistered charterboat. A check of the anglers resulted in the discovery of six fish. Each customer admitted to fishing. A short interview of the customers revealed that only one had a license to take trout and salmon.

Area COs ticketed several anglers fishing without licenses and keeping illegally caught bass.

DISTRICT 5

While on a nighttime marine patrol, CO Brian Engelhard encountered a boat operator whom he suspected of being under the influence of alcohol. After conducting field sobriety evaluations, CO Engelhard arrested the subject for operating a motorboat under the influence of alcohol.

COs Warren MacNeill and Brian Engelhard took part in three separate search and rescue operations on Lake Huron. Off-shore winds caused havoc with unsuspecting and inexperienced boaters.

COs Rebecca Hopkins and Warren MacNeill used their ORVs and assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) and U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) in the search for a lost elderly man suffering from Alzheimers Disease. The man was located and returned home safely.

DISTRICT 6

CO Phil Hudson and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly were watching an angler fishing from rocks below the Chesaning Dam. The COs observed the subject catch several short smallmouth bass and then drop them into what they thought was the river. The COs then saw the angler's wife catch a short smallmouth. The angler took the bass, still hooked in the mouth and had his wife let some line out. The angler then walked about five feet away and dropped the bass in the same location. There was a natural hole in the rock that was full of water but no escape for the fish. When the COs contacted the angler he denied putting the bass in the hole. The COs found 15 short bass in the hole, and a ticket was issued.

CO Phil Hudson kayaked the Maple River and located five unattended fishing poles and two set lines. The CO seized the equipment and left a business card. Two days later CO Hudson received a phone call from the angler who wanted his fishing poles back. The CO met with the subject and returned the fishing poles and a ticket for unattended lines.

COs Larn Strawn, Holly Pennoni, Phil Hudson, and Sgts. Ron Kimmerly and Tony Soave were working marine patrol along the Rifle River. The COs observed a subject on the bank wave at some much younger kids to come over. The subject then started passing around a marijuana cigarette. The subject then started yelling at all the girls that went by in canoes to expose themselves. The subject was contacted and found to be in possession of more marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

During a group patrol targeting subjects taking overlimits of walleye from Saginaw Bay, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly checked a boat with two anglers that pulled up to shore. Sgt. Kimmerly looked in the live well and there appeared to be more than 10 walleye. The female angler then started to ask the Sgt several questions and at the same time the male angler very slowly reached into the live well and took out several walleye. The Sgt. saw what was going on out of the corner of his eye, and ordered the angler to put the walleye back in the live well. After counting the walleye it was found there were 13. The Sgt. also pointed out that the five 14 inch walleye they had were also illegal. Tickets were issued.

Sgt. Tony Soave received information from a complainant that a boat with four anglers had gone out walleye fishing on Saginaw Bay early in the morning, came in with a limit of walleye, and went back out fishing. Sgt. Soave passed on the information to COs Holly Pennoni and Nick Atkin, who waited for the boat to return. Upon checking them at the fish cleaning station, the COs found 20 walleye filleted in a cooler and 19 more walleyes from the second trip. A small amount of marijuana was also found in one of the angler's vehicles. All four subjects were ticketed for the violation.

DISTRICT 7

CO Andy Bauer responded to a RAP complaint regarding a hawk attacking a small child. The hawk landed on the child's head and when

the frightened child ran, the hawk's claws left scratches on the child's head. CO Bauer turned the hawk over to a local wildlife rehabilitator for care.

COs Andy Bauer and Zack Doss investigated a marine accident which involved a vessel hitting a sheriff's department marine patrol boat. The marine deputies had a PWC stopped for wake jumping. The vessel which hit the sheriff's boat was the same vessel whose wake the PWC operator was jumping. A ticket was issued to the boat operator for failing to stop in assured and clear distance. COs also discovered the operator had an outstanding DNR warrant. Bond was taken at the scene. In addition, the vessel had an insufficient number of PFDs aboard.

COs Zack Doss and Steve Mooney patrolled Lake Michigan in South Haven and contacted the operator of an unregistered 40 foot vessel which had never been registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Gary Raak worked a group patrol targeting a non-permitted boat race event at Gun Lake in Barry County. CO Raak used radar to monitor boats operating at excessive speeds based on past complaints by residents of the area. Three operators were ticketed for excessive speed.

Sgt. Dave Shaw attempted to stop an ORV being operated on the main traveled portion of a paved roadway only to have the subject flee the area. The pursuit continued for several miles on the road and through farm fields. Sgt. Shaw was assisted by sheriff's deputies and MSP units when the ORV disappeared into a wood lot. The subject's wallet and identification were found on the roadway where they were dropped during the pursuit. The hidden ORV was impounded and the subject was lodged in the county jail on charges of fleeing and eluding.

CO Jeff Ginn contacted a group of anglers fishing below the Lyons Dam on the Grand River. The three subjects were in possession of several undersize northern pike, and were ticketed for the violation.

DISTRICT 8

CO Damon Owens assisted the Lansing Police Department with a case of illegal taking of waterfowl. The officers responded to a call of shots fired and located a subject who killed a female mallard duck with a 9mm handgun out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols worked several late night marine patrols and encountered subjects fishing without licenses, subjects operating unregistered watercraft, and subjects smoking marijuana. CO Nickols also assisted the sheriff's department with a subject who was operating a watercraft while intoxicated. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

While on marine patrol CO Rick Villerot encountered numerous violations which included: bow riding, unregistered vessel, operating within 100 feet of a dock, operating with no boater safety certificate, and illegal operation of a PWC. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer received a complaint of deer being killed with a firearm. CO Brewer's investigation led him to a farm that had a crop damage permit. The permit holder shot a deer but did not kill it and the wounded deer ran onto the neighbor's property where it eventually died. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Wright was the first on the scene of a fatal traffic accident. One subject was trapped under a vehicle and died before the vehicle could be removed. CO Wright administered first aid until the paramedics arrived.

DISTRICT 9

CO Ken Kovach had a trial regarding a subject who took a deer with a firearm at night over a bait pile. The defendant was convicted of taking a deer unlawfully and was ordered to pay fines, costs, and restitution. The subject also lost hunting privileges for the next four years.

CO Lacelle Rabon responded to a RAP complaint of a subject fishing with too many lines. Upon arrival, CO Rabon identified the subject and found he was fishing with eight lines. The subject stated he was waiting for his friends to join him and he put the lines in before they got there. He admitted that he had been fishing for several hours and that he was wrong for fishing with the extra lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft reported that a recent court case has been settled involving a subject who shot a gosling on a small lake in Oakland County. The subject pled guilty to the charge of taking waterfowl out of season and was charged \$1200 in fines, costs, and restitution.

COs Brandon Kieft and Kris Kiel worked a marine detail during hydroplane boat races on Pontiac Lake. Four tickets were issued for fishing without a license and one for operating a PWC without a safety certificate.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively responded to a complaint of an aggressive swan. The report was made by a homeowner whose daughter is afraid to ride on their PWC after being chased by the swan. The COs patrolled the area on their PWCs and were also chased by the bird. The local DNR Wildlife biologist was contacted for assistance.

CO Ben Shively observed two people riding a dirt bike in a closed area on state land. When he attempted to stop them, they fled and were able to get away. CO Shively went to another subdivision in an attempt to locate the dirt bike and was greeted by neighbors who directed CO Shively to the home of the rider. Enforcement action was taken.